

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 03765 01 OF 02 221113Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----076806 221115Z /13

P 221020Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5782

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 3765

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: XA PINT MARR MASS PO
SUBJ: EANES BILATERAL

1. I SAW PRESIDENT EANES PRIVATELY MAY 20 ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND WASHINGTON TO GET AN IDEA OF THE TOPICS HE INTENDED TO RAISE DURING HIS BILATERAL WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS AFRICA, THE AZORES, AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

2. AFRICA: HE WANTS TO PROPOSE A CONCERTED WESTERN EFFORT TO HELP GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE. WHILE GUINEA-BISSAU PER SE MAY NOT APPEAR IMPORTANT TO THE WEST, HE SEES IT AS A POSSIBLE BRIDGE TO COUNTERACT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. FIRST, WESTERN AID PROGRAM COULD SERVE AS A DEMONSTRATION TO THE OTHER EX-PORTUGUESE COLONIES THAT WESTERN ASSISTANCE DOES NOT INVOLVE THE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IMPLICIT IN SOVIET/CUBAN AID. SECOND, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE WEST SPONSOR AN INSTITUTE IN EITHER GUINEA OR CAPE VERDE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING TO ALL THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES, THEREBY HELPING TO SPREAD WESTERN INFLUENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA. HE HOPES TO ENLIST BRAZIL IN SUCH A PROJECT AS WELL.

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3. THE AZORES: HE INTENDS TO DESCRIBE TO PRESIDENT CARTER WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE THE STRATEGY OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE AZORES. THIS HE SEES AS AN EFFORT TO STIR UP A SEPARATIST CONFLICT WITH THE MAINLAND AND TO PROVOKE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INTO SUPPRESSING THE RESULTING VIOLENCE. (ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO, PRESUMABLY THE STIMULATION OF SEPARATISM WOULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED DIRECTLY BY THE PCP BUT

RATHER THROUGH EXTERNAL CHANNELS, WHILE THE PCP WOULD PRESSURE THE GOP TO TAKE A HARD LINE WITH THE AZOREANS; THE PCP HAS BEEN PUBLICLY CONDEMNING THE SEPARATISTS IN RECENT WEEKS.) THE COMMUNISTS' PURPOSE WOULD BE TO INVOLVE THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES IN ANOTHER "COLONIAL" WAR, WHICH IN TURN WOULD LEAD TO THE KIND OF RADICALIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES THAT ACCOMPANIED THE EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA AND WOULD RE-OPEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PCP TO USE THE ARMED FORCES TO TAKE OVER IN PORTUGAL.

4. MILITARY ASSISTANCE: HE REALIZES THAT THE WESTERN ALLIES MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SEE THE JUSTIFICATION FOR DEVOTING RESOURCES TO RE-EQUIP FURTHER THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES WHEN THE COUNTRY SO BADLY NEEDS ECONOMIC HELP. HOWEVER, THE REAL PURPOSE OF AIDING THE ARMED FORCES WITH THEIR RE-EQUIPMENT IS AN INTERNAL POLITICAL ONE; TO TAKE THEM COMPLETELY OUT OF POLITICS. HE DESCRIBED THE ARMED FORCES AS STILL "AILING" FROM THE AFRICAN DEBACLE AND, AS SUCH, STILL A POTENTIALLY DESTABILIZING FACTOR.

5. THE PRESIDENT ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT PRESIDENT CARTER MIGHT WISH TO RAISE WITH HIM. I SAID, AFRICA, THE LAJES BASE NEGOTIATIONS, AND PROSPECTS IN PORTUGAL.

6. AFRICA: I SAID THE PRESIDENT WOULD WELCOME HIS INSIGHTS INTO THE AFRICAN SITUATION, ESPECIALLY IN SOUTHERN

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AFRICA, INCLUDING ANGOLA, WITH WHICH EANES HAS HAD A LONG PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ON ANGOLA. HE OBSERVED THAT THE U.S. HAS A POTENTIAL LEVER VIA THE GULF CABINDA OPERATION. I POINTED TO THE USG'S LACK OF CONTROL OVER PRIVATE U.S. CORPORATIONS. HE BELIEVES THE RUSSIANS ARE IN ANGOLA TO STAY AND MENTIONED A REPORT THAT THEY WERE BUILDING A NAVAL BASE IN NORTHERN ANGOLA. HE DID NOT MENTION THE MELO ANTUNES MISSION TO LUANDA, POSSIBLE BECAUSE HIS EMISSARY HAD NOT YET RETURNED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 3765

EXDIS

7. LAJES: I REPEATED THE FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS FOR SPEEDY CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE LAJES AIR BASE, NAMELY ITS IMPORTANCE AS A SYMBOL OF PORTUGUESE RECIPROCITY FOR U.S. ECONOMIC, MILITARY, AND MORAL SUPPORT. I SAID THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE GOP WERE PROCEEDING GLACIALLY. I SUGGESTED THAT HE REACH AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON A DATE CERTAIN FOR THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE TOOK NOTE BUT DID NOT COMMENT.

8. PORTUGAL: I SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HIS APPRECIATION OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTS IN PORTUGAL.

9. COMMENT: I REALIZE THE TIME ALLOTTED TO THE BILATERAL IS VERY SHORT. PRESIDENT EANES, HOWEVER, IS A MAN OF VERY FEW WORDS. THIS SHOULD PERMIT TOUCHING ON HIS THREE POINTS. FROM OUR SIDE, LAJES IS THE MAJOR ACTION ITEM.

10. DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO AMEMBASSY GUINEA-BISSAU.
BLOOMFIELD

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